

RADIO STAMPS
by
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Prepared for the
"DX Party Line" Program
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Introduction

Hello, welcome to another edition of "Radio Stamps". My name is Neil Carleton and I'm your host for this new feature on HCJB. "Radio Stamps" is a monthly program all about the fun of collecting stamps from around the world on the topic of radio. There are dozens of radio subjects you can collect on stamps, and they include radio stations, amateur radio and radio listening, to name just a few. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Regular features on this program include descriptions and checklists of stamps you can collect, discussions of radio subjects on stamps, and answers to listeners questions. There will also be contests to win radio stamps for your collection.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB. I also hope you'll write to me with your comments and news for the program. I'll give you my mailing address at the end of this feature.

Radio Stamps Bibliography

This program is the second in the series. The first program, last month, was a special introduction to the world of radio on stamps. On today's program the subject is collecting radio stations on stamps.

Before I start, just a reminder that I've prepared a bibliography for you on radio stamps that's available worldwide for return postage. This introduction to the hobby is a listing of all the published references I know about on radio stamps. It includes the 32 different radio subjects you can find. Many of the articles, in stamp and radio publications, include checklists of radio stamps you can collect. Other articles were written to help you start and enjoy a collection of radio stamps.

This bibliography also includes the many radio topics I've written about in my monthly column, called "Radio Stamps". It's published each month in the MESSENGER, the journal of the Canadian International DX Club. My column includes news of radio stamps around the world, checklists of stamps to collect, and many illustrations, including postage stamps, first day covers and postal cancellations on the topic of radio. It's the only monthly column in the world about radio stamps. Sample copies of the MESSENGER are available from the Canadian International DX Club. The mailing address and ordering details are included in the bibliography.

If you'd like a copy of this bibliography, please send me a business-size, self-addressed envelope, with Canadian postage, or international reply coupons. If you live in Canada, I'll need \$0.61 in Canadian postage. If you live in the United States, I'll need \$0.65 in Canadian postage, or 2 reply coupons. If you live in another part of the world, I'll need \$1.17 in Canadian postage, or 2 reply coupons. Please mention in your letter that you heard the "Radio Stamps" program here on HCJB. I'll give you my mailing address shortly, at the end of this program.

Radio Stations on Stamps

I started my collection with a few stamps that featured the radio stations I first heard on shortwave, like HCJB and Radio Canada International. My collecting interests have grown over the years to include amateur radio, inventors and many other radio subjects. The scope of my collection may not be of interest to you, or another radio stamp collector. To others, for example, my collection may be far too broad in scope. To some, on the other hand, it may be too narrow because it doesn't include space communications or satellites. The important point to remember is the scope of your collection is entirely up to you and your interests.

Many collectors have an interest in radio stations on stamps. The designs on stamps in this category include actual radio stations, transmission towers, radio emblems and symbolic or stylized designs for radio communications.

The broadcasting anniversaries of quite a few international radio stations are commemorated on postage stamps. These include HCJB, Radio Canada International, the BBC, Radio Australia and Radio Moscow, to name just a few. You can also find regional and domestic radio stations on stamps, like Radio Gambia and Radio Lesotho in Africa. Your collection can include radio stations that broadcast on FM, shortwave or even longwave. There are stamps too that feature music, fitness and children's programs on radio, and even stamps that depict broadcasting studios.

Some stamps, dating from the earlier years of radio broadcasting, show stations that disappeared from the airwaves quite some time ago. New stamps are issued around the world that commemorate, or include in their design, some aspect of radio stations. In 1989, for example, the 50th anniversary of Radio Australia was commemorated with a special postage stamp. I haven't seen the actual stamp yet, unfortunately. I'd be grateful to receive a report on it for the next program.

Collecting Tip

In 1981, HCJB celebrated its 50th anniversary with 3 colourful postage stamps issued in Ecuador. It was on Christmas day in 1931 that HCJB first went on the air. During that 50 year period, the station grew from 250 watts to over a million watts, with broadcasts in shortwave, medium wave and FM stereo. All three of these multicolour stamps include the call sign of the station in their design, along with the station's emblem of protective hands and the globe. The denominations of the stamps are 2, 7.6 and 10 sucres. The 2 higher denominations, by the way, are airmail stamps.

These stamps would be a great addition to your collection on the subject of radio stations. The Scott catalogue numbers for these Ecuadorian stamps, issued in 1981, are 1014, C721 and C722. In the Scott postage stamp catalogue, which is widely used in North America, the letter "C" indicates an airmail stamp. In your part of the world, you may be more familiar with the different numbering systems of the Stanley Gibbons, Michel or Yvert Tellier stamp catalogues. The Tellier catalogue numbers for these stamps are listed as 1010, for the lower denomination, and 732 and 733 for the airmail stamps.

If you make a "want list" of radio stamps you'd like to collect, remember to record the country name, the date of issue and the catalogue number for each stamp. Be sure to include on your list the name of your stamp catalogue.

Listener's Question

Whether you're new to stamps, or an experienced collector, there may be words or expressions that aren't familiar to you on this program. If you have a question, please write and I'll try to

answer it on the air.

The term "first day cover", which I mentioned earlier in the program, is a good example. In my monthly column in the MEESENGER, I sometimes include a first day cover as an illustration. A "cover" is an envelope, with or without postage stamps, that's passed through the mail and has postal markings of some sort on it. Before the introduction of envelopes, in 1840, people folded letters and wrote the address on the outside. Many people covered their letter with an extra sheet of paper on the outside for the address. This sheet, and later envelopes, was called a "cover". Stamped envelopes, used air letter sheets and other items of postal stationery are also referred to as "covers".

A "first day cover" is an envelope specially prepared or printed for the first day of issue of a postage stamp. Today, it usually includes a printed design on the envelope related to the postage stamp and its accompanying cancellation on the first day of issue of the stamp. For example, the first day cover I have for the HCJB stamps has a printed design on the left side of the envelope. It's the same as the design on one of the HCJB airmail stamps. The 3 commemorative stamps, on the upper right of the envelope, have also been cancelled with a unique post mark to note that it's the first day of issue for these special stamps.

This brings me to the end of today's program. I'd be grateful to receive your comments for improvements. I'd also be grateful to receive your news for upcoming programs. Your help is needed to create an international network of radio stamp reporters. Details on how you can participate are included in my bibliography.

As promised, here's my mailing address: Neil Carleton, Radio Stamps, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. My address again is ...

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.